

CLAIMS

1. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with nesting structures comprising:

a first structure including a front face with an opening and a second structure designed to be nestingly engaged in the opening in the first structure;

a pivot arm having a first surface and a second surface, the pivot arm being pivotally mounted between the first structure and the second structure for pivotal movement between a latching orientation in which the second structure is nestingly engaged in the first structure and a delatching orientation in which a delatching force applied to the first surface pivots the second surface against one of the first structure and the second structure to move the second structure at least partially out of the nestingly engaged orientation; and

an actuator having latching and delatching orientations, the actuator being constructed to mate with the first surface of the pivot arm in the delatching orientation and apply the delatching force to the first surface of the pivot arm.

2. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with nesting structures as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first structure is a housing and the second structure is an optical transceiver.

3. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with nesting structures as claimed in claim 1 wherein the pivot arm is pivotally mounted within the opening in the first structure.

4. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with nesting structures as claimed in claim 3 wherein the actuator is an elongated rod mounted for reciprocal longitudinal movements between a latching orientation and a delatching orientation in which a first end of the rod engages the first surface of the pivot arm and applies the delatching force to the first surface of the pivot arm in response to a force applied to a second end of the rod.

5. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with nesting structures as claimed in claim 4 wherein the pivot arm is constructed of metal.

6. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with nesting structures as claimed in claim 4 wherein the pivot arm is an elongated device with the first surface and the second surface of the pivot arm formed adjacent opposite ends of the pivot arm.

7. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with an optical module comprising:

an optical module including a housing having a front face with an opening and an optical transceiver designed to be nestingly engaged in the opening in the housing;

a pivot arm having a first surface and a second surface, the pivot arm being pivotally mounted between the housing and the transceiver for pivotal movement between a latching orientation in which the transceiver is nestingly engaged in the housing and a delatching orientation in which a delatching force applied to the first surface pivots the second surface against one of the housing and the transceiver to move the transceiver at least partially out of the nestingly engaged orientation; and

an actuator having latching and delatching orientations, the actuator being constructed to mate with the first surface of the pivot arm in the delatching orientation and apply the delatching force to the first surface of the pivot arm.

8. An actuator-based latching/delatching mechanism in combination with an optical module comprising:

an optical module including a housing having a front face with an opening and an optical transceiver designed to be nestingly engaged in the opening in the housing, a front surface of the optical transceiver being approximately flush with the front face of the housing in a fully nestingly engaged orientation;

a pivot arm having a first surface and a second surface, the pivot arm being pivotally mounted adjacent a rear end of the housing for pivotal movement between a latching orientation in which the transceiver is fully nestingly engaged in the housing and a delatching orientation in which a delatching force applied to the first surface pivots the second surface against the transceiver to move the transceiver at least partially out of the fully nestingly engaged orientation; and

an elongated actuator mounted in the housing for reciprocal longitudinal movements, the actuator being movable between a latching orientation and a delatching orientation in which a first end of the actuator engages the first surface of the pivot arm and applies the delatching force to the first surface of the pivot arm in response to a force applied to a second end of the actuator, the first end of the actuator being

positioned adjacent the face of the housing and accessible exterior of the housing with the actuator in the latching orientation.